

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A chewing gum comprising:
a water-soluble portion;
a water-insoluble portion;
an encapsulated acid mixture consisting essentially of ~~comprising~~ a mixture of at least two acidulants encapsulated in polyvinylacetate.

Claim 2 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the acidulants include at least one acid selected from the group consisting of fumaric, malic, and tartaric acid.

Claim 3 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises approximately 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the chewing gum.

Claim 4 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the encapsulated acid mixture.

Claim 5 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises, by total weight percent:

approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid;
approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and
approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

Claim 6 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises, by total weight percent:

approximately 50% malic acid;
approximately 41 % fumaric acid; and
approximately 9% tartaric acid.

Claim 7 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the polyvinyl acetate has a molecular weight range of approximately 20,000 to about 120,000.

Claim 8 (original): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the chewing gum is sugarless.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A confectioner product comprising an acid mixture including at least fumaric acid and malic acid encapsulated by a coating of a hydrophobic polymer.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The confectionery product of Claim 9 wherein the acidulant comprises, by total weight percent: approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid; approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The confectionery product of Claim 9 wherein the acid mixture comprises approximately 0.1% to about 10% by weight of the chewing gum.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The confectionery product of Claim 9 wherein the acid mixture comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the encapsulated acid mixture.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The confectionery product of Claim 9 including an oil that provides flavor.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The confectionery product of Claim 9 wherein the product is a chewing gum.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): An edible acid mixture comprising:
at least one particle of a mixture of acidulants including fumaric and malic acid; and
polyvinyl acetate encapsulating the particle.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises, by total weight percent:
approximately 25% to about 65% fumaric acid;
approximately 10% to about 50% malic acid; and
approximately 0% to about 25% tartaric acid.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the polyvinyl acetate has a molecular weight range of approximately 20,000 to about 120,000.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): The acid mixture of Claim 14 wherein the mixture of acidulants comprises approximately 10% to about 40% by weight of the acid mixture.

Claim 19 (original): A method of producing an edible product including an acidulant comprising encapsulating acidulants including at least fumaric and malic acid in an encapsulating material consisting essentially of a hydrophobic polymer to produce an encapsulated acidulant.

Claim 20 (original): The method of Claim 19 including the step of adding the encapsulated acidulant to a chewing gum.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19 including the steps of preparing particles that include the acidulants and coating the particles with the hydrophobic polymer.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 21 wherein the particles are coated by being extruded with the hydrophobic polymer.

Claim 23 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19 wherein the acidulants include tartaric acid.

Claim 24 (original): The method of Claim 19 wherein the edible product is chewing gum.

Claim 25 (withdrawn): The method of Claim 19 wherein the edible product is a confectionery product.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The chewing gum of Claim 1 wherein the mixture includes a dry composite acid.